

SUPPORT BIPARTISAN AMENDMENT TO INCREASE TRANSPORTATION SPENDING

(Mr. PETRI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today's budget vote has unique significance to the reauthorization of ISTEA, since it locks in for the next several years the amount of transportation spending that we can include in a reauthorization bill.

All Members representing donor States and donee States who have come to plead their case before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure should pay special attention to the budget vote later today. Donor States want more equitable highway formulas, and I know their frustration, because I come from a donor State. Donee States want to protect their current shares.

Without more funding than is provided in the budget agreement, it will be impossible to satisfy all of the States, so both donor and donee States should be on notice that they will have to live with the ramification of today's budget vote for years to come.

Support the amendment of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure which increases funding for ISTEA, does not result in any cuts next year, and simply spends new revenues to keep the current \$24 billion highway trust fund balance stable. The ISTEA reauthorization debate begins today. Vote "yes" on the Shuster-Oberstar amendment.

WE SHOULD REOPEN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the constituents, the tourists of my colleagues come every year. If they go anywhere near Pennsylvania Avenue they will find a traffic catastrophe. The heart of downtown is closed to the public because the White House area is no longer open to traffic.

Senators and Representatives from this region today have written the President asking that the Treasury, the Secret Service, and the District of Columbia sit down to work out a plan to reopen Pennsylvania Avenue. That plan must be consistent with the Secret Service concerns about the safety of the White House complex. We are fully cognizant of that.

But this region is No. 2 in the Nation in lost time to commuters and No. 1 in economic losses to commuters because of that lost time. Many Members know what this is about because they come into town in the morning to a closed Pennsylvania Avenue and all the traffic problems that have been brought. Open Pennsylvania Avenue gradually, consistent with the President's safety.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ENDORSES PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the American Medical Association struck a blow for innocent human life yesterday when it endorsed legislation to outlaw the heinous practice of partial-birth abortions. Now the major obstacles in the way of a ban on this horrific procedure are President Clinton and the leaders of the most radical pro-abortion lobbies.

Let us hope that the American Medical Association's statement that we must restrict a procedure that, and I quote, "We all agree is not good medicine," will get the attention of the last remaining diehard on the wrong side of this issue. A partial-birth abortion is literally the killing in a most brutal fashion of a baby about to take its first breath of life outside the womb. It is a grotesque and inhuman practice. In a civilized society, it has absolutely no place.

Mr. Speaker, the Cincinnati Enquirer, my hometown's newspaper, in a hard-hitting editorial this morning, summed it up best. Again, I quote. They said, "It is time to declare that our society will no longer tolerate infanticide as a choice."

Let us ban this horrible procedure once and for all.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 815

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Kentucky, Mr. HAROLD ROGERS, be removed as a cosponsor on H.R. 815.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

1998 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION STRIPS CITIZEN SOLDIERS OF RIGHT TO PAID MILITARY LEAVE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address an issue that affects all of our military Reserve and National Guard members who are Federal employees. The 1998 defense authorization bill proposes to take away the right of these citizen soldiers to earn their 15 days of paid military leave each year.

Up to this point this has been a highly successful military leave policy for civil servants who serve in the Reserve and Guard. Why destroy that policy? Rather, this U.S. Government should set the example by supporting the Reserve and Guard forces. These brave

men and women make up 40 percent of this Nation's armed services. Removing such incentives will significantly jeopardize the recruitment and retention of these fine service members, and reduce the number of personnel who will volunteer for operations.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, if we do not stop this proposal it will seriously jeopardize the safety of America, and the ultimate strength of our military forces and their ability to protect us.

HIGHER PRIORITY NEEDED FOR TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the NEXTEA proposal and the recent budget agreement fall short of fulfilling the Nation's, Pennsylvania's, and Montgomery County's transportation needs. Much more needs to be done to protect our highways, bridges, and transit systems. Roads such as route 309 through eastern Montgomery County, PA literally threaten the safety of my constituents. This road has one of the worst safety records for a highway of its kind in the State. We need to have the legislation adopted, this Shuster bill.

Balancing the Federal budget is important. I have stood on the floor with my colleagues to make sure we pass balanced budgets to have deficit reduction, lower taxes, and tax limitations. However, within the overall budget framework, transportation needs to be given a higher priority if we are going to have any possibility of adequately funding the reauthorization of ISTEA and preventing any further injury and death on roads such as route 309 in Pennsylvania.

I further urge my colleagues today to vote for the Shuster-Oberstar-Petri-Rahall substitute to the budget resolution.

SILVER CHARM, FROM OCALA, FL., NEARS A TRIPLE CROWN WIN

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to inform my colleagues that after one of the most exciting races in the history of the Preakness Stakes held Saturday, Silver Charm, sired and trained in my hometown of Ocala, FL, is two-thirds of the way toward winning the Triple Crown.

I congratulate Bob and Beverly Lewis, the owners of Silver Charm, and I congratulate Jack Dudley, owner of Dudley Farms in Ocala, where Silver Charm was born. Not since 1978 has there been a Triple Crown winner, and that fine animal was another Ocala-bred horse, Affirmed.

Thoroughbred horse racing is unique among competitions, a combination of skilled riders and these carefully bred and trained animals. Increasingly, Florida is producing champion horses. The horse farms of Ocala and Marion County are bringing well-deserved recognition to our State. On behalf of the people of Marion County, I wish Silver Charm all the best in the Belmont Stakes in June.

LET US HELP PRESIDENT CLINTON AND PASS THE TAX CUT ON CAPITAL GAINS

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to do something extraordinary in politics. I want to pass legislation for which President Clinton can claim credit. It gets even stranger. The President opposes this legislation, even though he will accept it as part of a deal to get more social spending.

The legislation I am talking about is, of course, a cut in the capital gains tax. What will happen to the economy? Well, it is obvious. What will happen is exactly the same thing that has happened each and every time a tax cut in the capital gains tax has been signed into law. The economy will improve.

In a \$7.5 trillion economy a cut in the tax on capital gains has a dramatic effect. So when the economy improves, President Clinton will surely cite every possible explanation for improved economic growth except for the capital gains tax. But job creators know what really creates jobs. So, ironically, he will get all the credit for an improved economy that is due solely to the change in how we tax capital investments, but I can accept that.

Let us help President Clinton, despite himself, and pass the tax cut on capital gains in his balanced budget agreement.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF LI TENG-HUI

(Mr. KING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the first anniversary of the popular election Li Teng-hui as the President of the Republic of China. This is historic because it was the first time in history that the people of China have elected their President, the first time a head of state in China has been elected by the people.

Last year 21 million in Taiwan went to the polls in record numbers. This was a tremendous victory, not just for President Li, who a number of Members have met over the years, but more importantly it was a victory of the people of China, because in going to the

polls they defied the force and might of the mainland Chinese, who were launching missile tests and were doing everything they could to harass and intimidate the people on the island of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, for many years the people on Taiwan and their government have been our strong allies and friends. It is essential that we commit ourselves to standing with them. The Republic of China deserves our support, President Li deserves our support, and I am proud to stand today commemorating his election as the first ever popularly elected President in the history of China.

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DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the call of the Private Calendar today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING SPEAKER TO ENTERTAIN MOTIONS TO SUSPEND RULES ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, May 21, 1997, the Speaker be authorized to entertain motions to suspend the rules and pass the following bills and resolutions:

H.R. 1377, Savings Are Vital to Everyone's Retirement Act of 1997;

H.R. 1306, Riegle-Neal Clarification Act of 1997;

H.R. 911, Volunteer Protection Act of 1997;

House Resolution 121, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the March 30, 1997, terrorist grenade attack in Cambodia;

House Concurrent Resolution 63, reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the principles of the Marshall Plan;

H.R. 956, Drug-Free Community Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken later in the day.

PERMITTING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR CONGRESSIONAL CEREMONY HONORING MOTHER TERESA

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 26) to permit the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a congressional ceremony honoring Mother Teresa.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON RES. 26

Whereas Mother Teresa of Calcutta has greatly enhanced the lives of people in all walks of life in every corner of the world through her faith, her love, and her selfless dedication to humanity and charitable works for nearly 70 years;

Whereas Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, which includes more than 3,000 members in 25 countries who devote their lives to serving the poor, without accepting any material reward in return;

Whereas Mother Teresa has been recognized as an outstanding humanitarian around the world and has been honored by: the first Pope John XXIII Peace Prize (1971); the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding (1972); the Nobel Peace Prize (1979); and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1985).

Whereas Mother Teresa has forever enhanced the culture and history of the world; and

Whereas Mother Teresa truly leads by example and shows the people of the world the way to live by love for all humanity; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on June 5, 1997, for a congressional ceremony honoring Mother Teresa. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] and the gentlewoman from Michigan [Ms. KILPATRICK], each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS].

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Senate Concurrent Resolution 26 was approved by the Committee on House Oversight in its regularly scheduled meeting on May 14. The concurrent resolution authorizes the use of the Capitol rotunda on June 5 to allow for a celebration honoring Mother Teresa after she addresses a joint session of Congress. The Senate passed this resolution which was offered by the senior Senator from Kansas, Senator SAM BROWNBACK, on May 8.

Agnes Gonxhe Bojaxhiu, now known as Mother Teresa, was born on August 26, 1910, in Albania. She joined a Catholic Missionary order and went to India when she was 18 years old. In 1950, she founded the Missionaries of Charity.

Mother Teresa is one of those names known the world over. More important than being recognized, she has been honored the world over:

She was honored with the first Pope John XXIII Peace Prize in 1971. The Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding was given to